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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Cornelis P. G. SCHRAUWEN et al.

Serial No.: TBA

Filed: Herewith (May 11, 2001)

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR
COATING OBJECTS THROUGH PVD

Atty. Dkt. No.: 00771.00019

U.S. National Stage of

International Application No.:

PCT/NL99/00689

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

BOX PCT

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination and calculation of any claim fees, please amend the instant application as follows:

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Insert the following Abstract, which is also annexed hereto on a separate sheet:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention relates to an apparatus for applying at least one coating to objects by means of physical vapour deposition (PVD) under vacuum, including: a preprocessing device for performing a preprocessing on the object; a PVD device for coating an object under a vacuum; and a postprocessing device for postprocessing the objects, wherein: the apparatus comprises a transport device which extends through the preprocessing device, the PVD device and the postprocessing device, the transport device is adapted to transport objects arranged on carriers, and the PVD device is adapted for semi-continuous treatment of objects arranged on the carriers.

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